

REMARKS

Claims 4-49, 51, and 53-71 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled. Claims 4, 7, and 10 have been amended to independent form, including the feature of now cancelled claim 1. Currently amended claims 4, 7, and 10 should now be allowed, as indicated by the Examiner.

Claims 5, 8, and 11 have been amended so as to be dependent from currently-amended claims 4, 7, and 10, respectively, and each of the claims recites the feature of cancelled claim 2. Likewise, claims 6, 9, and 12 have been amended so as to be dependent from currently amended claims 4, 7, and 10, respectively, and each claim recites the feature of cancelled claim 3.

Claim 13 has been amended by including the feature of claim 4. Two new independent claims, that is, claims 54 and 55, combining the feature of claim 13 with the features of claims 7 and 10, respectively, have been added. Currently-amended claim 13, new claim 54, and new claim 55 should be allowed because they recite the features corresponding to those of currently-amended claims 4, 7, 10, respectively.

Likewise, the applicant has amended claim 14 by including the feature of claim 4, and has added two new independent claims, i.e. claims 55 and 56, combining the feature of claim 14 with the features of claims 7 and 10, respectively. Currently-amended claim 14, new claim 55, and new claim 56 should be allowed because they recite the features corresponding to those of currently-amended claims 4, 7, 10, respectively.

Claim 29 and claim 38 have each been divided into three independent claims, that is, claims 29 (currently-amended), 58 (new), and 61 (new) and claims 38 (currently-amended), 64 (new), and 68 (new), in the same manner as claims 13, 53, and 54. Claims 29 (currently-amended), 58 (new), and 61 (new) and claims 38 (currently-amended), 64 (new), and 68 (new) should be allowed because they recite the features corresponding to those of currently-amended claims 4, 7, 10, respectively. Their dependent claims, that is, claims 32, 35, 41, 45, and 47, each have been divided into three claims depending from their respective independent claims.

In addition, the applicant has amended claims 30 and claim 39 into independent form, including the feature of previously-presented claim 29 and claim 38, respectively. Currently-amended claims 30 and 39 should be allowed according to the Examiner's suggestions.

Serial No. 09/816,232

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If there are any formal matters remaining after the response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

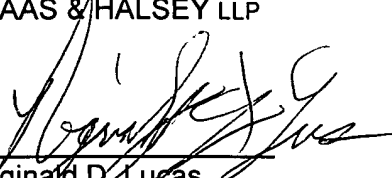
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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12/19/06

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